



Michigan **FIRE** Service Connection

Ronald Farr
State Fire Marshal

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March 2011

I am honored to tell you that this past month I received a call from Governor Rick Snyder indicating he was reappointing me as the State Fire Marshal. This was confirmed in a press release from the Governor's Office on February 18, 2011. It has been, and will continue to be, a great privilege to serve as the State Fire Marshal for this great state. Being able to serve, not only the state, but the Michigan Fire Service at this level is an awesome, rewarding and very humbling experience. I would like to thank the fire service for all of its support and pledge to continue to promote the best for all involved as we protect the residents and visitors in Michigan.

Most of you know I am very passionate about education and training. In continuing to support training activities I have noticed many fire service organizations in this state announcing training opportunities, whether a specialty class or a conference. I am encouraging you to take the opportunity to participate in these excellent educational experiences and at the same time get involved in the networking that takes place during these events. You never can learn too much and what an excellent opportunity to "get involved to make a difference."

Also, spring is just around the corner so I wish you the best as you discover those things that have been buried by the snow and start your plans for a busy summer.

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Farr
State Fire Marshal

MISSION

The mission of the State Fire Marshal and the Bureau of Fire Services is to protect lives and property by fostering a fire safe environment through inspections, plan review, enforcement, regulation, fire fighter training, data collection and public fire education.

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FEMA and National Commission on Children and Disasters Announce New Partnership to Promote Fire Safety Awareness for Families

Announcement Comes as FEMA Releases New Report Showing Children under Four at Growing Risk of Death or Injury in Fires

With home fires on the rise in winter months, and a new study showing that young children are at an especially high risk of getting seriously injured or dying in residential fires, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Commission on Children and Disasters have announced a new public awareness campaign to help keep children and families safer from the threat of home fires.

As part of this effort, FEMA's U.S. Fire Administration has released a new report on the risks fires pose to children. The report, which is based on the latest available data released by the National Center for Health Statistics, found that young children face the greatest – and a growing – risk of death or serious injury in home fires, with 52 percent of all child fire deaths in 2007 involving children under the age of four, a slight increase from the most recent study previously conducted in 2004. Click here for a copy of the report at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v11i9.pdf>.

In addition, the report found that:

- Deaths from fires and burns were the second leading cause of accidental deaths not related to transportation, after drowning;
- Boys are at higher-risk of dying from fires than girls;
- Between 2006 and 2008, smoke alarms were not present in at least 23 percent of residential fires;
- African-American children are at an increased risk of fire deaths; and
- Low-income children are at greatest risk of exposure to home fires.

To help families protect their homes and loved ones, especially young children, from fires, FEMA, the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Commission on Children and Disasters are asking families to take simple steps now to prevent fires in their residences, and partnering with leading organizations across the fire, emergency medical services, public health, and emergency management fields to get the message out.

To provide families with important tips about fire safety and lists of additional resources, FEMA is launching online and social media tools, including:

- An updated web page dedicated to children's fire safety, including tips on how to prevent the two leading causes of fire during the winter months: cooking and heating;
- A widget that will link to this website and resources;
- A Facebook tab; and
- A dedicated Twitter hashtag to engage the public in a dialogue about how to protect kids from fires.

Here is the link for the website: <http://www.ready.gov/kidsfiresafety> .

These updated tools will offer tips for how to prevent the two leading causes of fires during the winter months: heating and cooking.

Heating

The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities has caused many Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of wood burning stoves is growing and space heaters are selling rapidly. These heating sources are a major contributing factor in residential fires and may put children at risk. Many of these fires can be prevented.

What you can do:

- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Never allow children to play near a fireplace, wood burning stove, space heater, or other heating sources. Establish a 3 foot safety zone around all heat sources.
- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist, and use a metal mesh screen when burning a fire in your fireplace.
- Follow manufacturer instructions when alternative heat sources such as wood stoves and kerosene heaters are used. Kerosene heaters may be prohibited by local fire marshals.
- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves. Store fuels in proper containers, and keep them out of the reach of children and away from combustible materials.

Cooking

Many families gather in the kitchen to spend time together, but it can be one of the most hazardous rooms in the house if you don't practice safe cooking behaviors. Cooking is the leading cause of reported residential fires and fire injuries in the United States.

What you can do:

- Young children are at high risk of being burned by hot food and liquids. Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a "child-free zone" of 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove and microwave.
- When young children are present, use the stove's back burners whenever possible.
- Never hold a child while cooking, drinking, or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- Keep young children at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from any place where hot food or drink is being prepared or carried, such as around the microwave. Keep hot foods and liquids away from table and counter edges.
- Teach children that hot things can burn them.
- When children are old enough, teach them to cook safely. Supervise them closely.

Be Prepared

In at least 23 percent of all fatal residential fires, no smoke alarms were present. Keep your family safe, by installing a smoke and carbon monoxide alarm on every level of your home and inside and outside sleeping areas. Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least once a year. In addition, make an escape plan with a common meeting place and call 911 once you are safely outside. Practice the escape plan with your family; plan a home fire drill on a regular basis.

Families can further reduce their risk of injury or death by also installing residential sprinkler systems.

Practice safe fire behaviors and know what to do in an emergency to give your family extra seconds to escape. For more information on fire-safe behaviors and activities, visit www.ready.gov. and www.usfa.dhs.gov.

Join the conversation on Twitter by using the hashtag #kidsfiresafety and be sure to follow the agency @fema and Administrator Fugate @craigatfema.

Follow FEMA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fema <<http://www.facebook.com/fema>>

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Michigan News...

Safe Delivery of Newborns & Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Day, April 12, 2011



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Michigan. The Safe Delivery of Newborns program is pleased to be a partner with the Children's Trust Fund in promoting **Prevention Awareness Day at 11 a.m. in Lansing** on the steps of the State Capitol Building. There will be a rally, procession and planting of a pinwheel garden to show support for child abuse prevention programs in the state. The pinwheel is the national symbol of child abuse prevention.



As one of the mandated Emergency Service Providers (ESP) for the Safe Delivery law, we are encouraging ESP's to join us and be a voice for Michigan's children! You can also help promote the event by sharing information on your social media venues. The day's theme will be **The Power of One person, One community, One action**. More details at www.michigan.gov/ctf, click on programs.

It has been 10 years since the Safe Delivery of Newborns law was implemented in Michigan and to date, there have been 96 surrenders in 23 counties throughout the Lower Peninsula. Four of those surrenders have been at fire stations. Remember free resources and a web-based training program are available to all Michigan Fire Departments at www.michigan.gov/safedelivery or by calling 1-866-733-7733.



Bomb Threat Assessment Tool for Schools WORKSHOP

What:

A workshop for the Bomb Threat Assessment Tool for Schools is being offered statewide to provide step-by-step guidance on evaluating a bomb threat, identifying varying risks, and determining the appropriate response to ensure the safety of students and school personnel. This workshop will help schools respond to bomb threats by providing general guidelines to assist in developing a plan to reduce the risk of bomb incidents and how to respond if a threat should occur.

Why:

Historical high-profile cases of school violence in conjunction with unprecedented access to instructional materials on the Internet have contributed to the growth of bomb threats and suspicious devices in schools, on school grounds, and on school buses. These conditions require schools to not only fulfill the traditional role of educating students, but also providing for security measures in and around the schools. It is critical for school personnel to work in partnership with police, firefighters, and emergency response teams to develop policies and procedures in the event of an actual emergency.

Available Workshops:

The workshops begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 12:00 p.m.

- March 21 – Oakland Intermediate School District in Waterford
- March 22 – Livingston Educational Service Agency in Howell
- March 24 – Kent County Intermediate School District in Grand Rapids
- March 28 – Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency in Wayne
- March 29 – Kalamazoo Valley Community College in Kalamazoo
- April 18 – Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District in Traverse City
- April 19 – Michigan Tech Advanced Technology Design Center in Houghton
- April 22 – Lapeer Intermediate School District in Attica

Intended Audience:

The workshop is designed for school administrators, law enforcement, school security staff, school resource/liaison officers, fire services, emergency medical services (EMS), emergency management officials, and homeland security partners from all levels of government.

Cost:

There is no cost to attend the workshop.

Registration:

To reserve your attendance, please complete and submit the attached registration form to Mary Gager Drew at drewm@michigan.gov. Seating is limited so please submit your registration at least one week in advance of your desired workshop date.

Additional Information:

For further information, please contact Mary Gager Drew of the Michigan State Police/EMHSD at (517) 336-3985 or by e-mail at drewm@michigan.gov.



Bomb Threat Assessment Tool for Schools

REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Organization:

Title:

Telephone Number:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

E-Mail:

County:

Please clearly mark the workshop you will be attending:

- ☐ **March 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
Oakland Intermediate School District - Conference Room B at 2111 Pontiac Lake Road in Waterford, MI 48328
- ☐ **March 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
Livingston Educational Service Agency - McGuffey A-C at 1425 West Grand in Howell, MI 48843
- ☐ **March 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
Kent County Intermediate School District at 2930 Knapp NE in Grand Rapids, MI 49525
- ☐ **March 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency - Annex Building at 5454 Venoy Road in Wayne, MI 48184
- ☐ **March 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
M-TEC at Kalamazoo Valley Community College - Amphitheater at 7107 Elm Valley Drive in Kalamazoo, MI 49009
- ☐ **April 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District - Administration Building and Conference Center at 1101 Red Drive in Traverse City, MI 49696-6020
- ☐ **April 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
Michigan Tech Advanced Technology Design Center at 1400 Townsend Drive in Houghton, MI 49931
- ☐ **April 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
Lapeer Intermediate School District - Education and Technology Center Room 146 A-B at 690 North Lake Pleasant Road in Attica, MI 48412

Please submit the registration form to Mary Gager Drew at Michigan State Police/EMHSD via e-mail at drewm@michigan.gov or by fax (517) 333-4987.

Please submit the registration form at least one week in advance of the desired workshop date.

NFIRS News

2010 Fire Department Reporting Activity

Below is a link to a document reflecting reporting activity for all departments in the state of Michigan. Please take a look and check out your department's reporting activity. Is it what you expected? If you have questions, please contact Rhonda Howard at (517) 241-0691 or howardr2@michigan.gov.

http://w3.michigan.gov/documents/dleg/Non-Reporting_FDs2010_346754_7.pdf

NFIRS Account Passwords

NFIRS account passwords now automatically deactivate if you have not logged into the system within 45 days of the last login, rather than 60 days as it was previously.

A user will begin getting the following message seven days before the date of expiration:

Subject: NFIRS account about to expire

Message:

Dear <FIRST_NAME> <LAST_NAME>. Your NFIRS online account will become inactive in <DAYS_TILL_EXPIRE> days. Please login to your account to keep your account active. If you have any questions, please do not reply to this email. Instead, please contact the NFIRS Support Center

The message is sent each day until the account is accessed, or the account is locked on the date of expiration. The purpose of email is to remind the user to take action before the account expires.

Please ensure that the email listed on your NFIRS account is accurate. For questions regarding your NFIRS account, please contact Rhonda Howard at howardr2@michigan.gov or (517) 241-0691.

Reminder to Submit NFIRS Reports Online

As of January 1, 2008, the Bureau of Fire Services no longer accepts paper reports. The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is available online and the Bureau of Fire Services requests that all fire departments enter these reports using this online system. If you need assistance in setting up this program please contact Rhonda Howard (contact information is listed below).

Fatal Fire Reporting

In addition to the basic NFIRS report, the Bureau of Fire Services also tracks all fire-related deaths. These statistics are used for program development, legislation, and prevention

programs. Fire departments responding to a fatal fire are required to submit the "Michigan Fatal Fire Report" within 24 to 48 hours of the death. The report form is available at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dleg_bccfs_fatalrep_94417_7.pdf

Civilian Fatal Fire Statistics 2010

2010 – Reported as of 2/28/11

January	19	July	8
February	16	August	5
March	15	September	7
April	14	October	16
May	6	November	3
June	5	December	2

Civilian Fatal Fire Statistics 2011

2011 – Reported as of 2/28/11

January	6
February	1

Questions?

If you have questions regarding your department, NFIRS reporting functions or fatal fire reporting, please contact Rhonda Howard at (517) 241-0691 or howardr2@michigan.gov.

Michigan Fire Service Directory

PLEASE check your department's E-MAIL address in the directory. The Bureau has noticed that a lot of the email addresses are not up to date. The online directory can be found at: http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/fire_directory/. **Please note that the directory is updated quarterly. Changes to department contact information may not be reflected in the directory immediately.**

Below is information on how to obtain the form to update your department's information in the directory. You may submit the form by fax to (517) 335-4061, e-mail to howardr2@michigan.gov, or mail to Bureau of Fire Services, Attn: Rhonda Howard, PO Box 30700, Lansing MI 48909. Thank you in advance for your help to keep the most accurate information in the directory.

Fire Service Directory Update Form:

You may locate the form on our website at www.michigan.gov/bfs, click on Forms and Publications.

Office of Fire Fighter Training



News and Notes from the OFFT
By Joseph A. Grutza, Director, Office of Fire Fighter Training



Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council Adopts New Instructor Policy

The Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council (MFFTC) has finalized a new instructor policy. This new policy is the result of collaboration with the Office of Fire Fighter Training (OFFT), the MFFTC, and the state fire organizations. We are confident that this new policy will result in a cadre of fire instructors second to none in the country. Below are a few of the highlights.

There will be three levels of instructors: Associate Instructor, Instructor I, and Instructor II. The **Associate Instructor** is similar to the old certified instructor. The requirements are the 16-hour education methodology, 4-hour instructor orientation, 12 hours of mentored training, and one evaluation done by the OFFT. The associate instructor may instruct fire fighter I and II, up to the level that they have successfully completed.

Instructor I status will require successful completion of a tested 40-hour course and 12 hours of supervised training. The course will be delivered in two different formats, a 40-hour week or 3 sixteen-hour weekend sessions. Once successfully completed, the Instructor I will be authorized to instruct any of the courses on the MFFTC course menu other than wild land fire training and liquid propane emergencies. The Office of Fire Fighter Training will discontinue train-the-trainers.

Current certified instructors will be permitted to continue teaching any courses that they are currently qualified to instruct. Since train-the-trainers will be discontinued, if a current instructor wants to instruct a course that previously required a train the trainer, they will need to take the new 40-hour course.

The **Instructor II** level has been created and the required curriculum will be determined at a future date.

The Office of Fire Fighter Training will be running a pilot program for the new Instructor I course this summer and will schedule courses in the fall. The course will be instructed by OFFT staff and times and locations will be determined by location availability and need. Presently, the cost for students will be limited to the required books.

Another feature of the new instructor policy is the revision of the continuing education credit requirements. The policy for recertification is as follows: every three years the associate instructor must complete 8 hours of instruction and proctor 1 state fire fighter I-II exam or complete 14 hours of in-house training. The certified and instructor I will be required to complete 8 hours of instruction, proctor 1 state fire fighter I-II exam and attend 10 hours of fire conference and/or county training. The other option is 14 hours of in-house training and 10 hours of fire conference and/or county training. The three-year timeline to obtain the required CECs will begin once the Bureau's Information Management System is programmed to accept the information.

Please check out upcoming editions of the Michigan Fire Service Connection e-newsletter for schedule dates and times and further information regarding this new policy. The new policy can be found on our website at www.michigan.gov/bfs or directly by clicking the link below.

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dleg/Policy_2-1_Instructor_Qualifications_2.14.11_346721_7.pdf

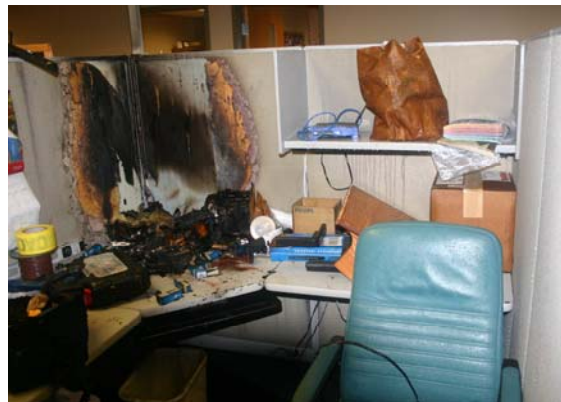
Other News...

The Value of Sprinklers

By Mark Hornberger CFPS, Fire Inspector, Meridian Township Fire Department

As part of the fire service, we all know the value of having sprinklers in any type of building. We see the property and lives they save. We see the destruction without them. Convincing others of this value is difficult. In Meridian Township in the last three months we have had two sprinkler saves. They occurred in a church and in a restaurant.

The church fire was in an office area of six cubicles (see picture right), was electrical in origin, and was on a Saturday morning. The fire was contained to the area of a single cubicle and there was smoke damage to the office area. Water damage was minimal within the office area with some computer equipment damaged. The sprinkler system was placed back in service later that day and church services were held the next day. The total loss was estimated at about \$4,000 with the value of the building at \$3,000,000.



The restaurant fire was at a popular restaurant in a strip mall and happened about 10:30 am as the morning prep for lunch was underway. Staff had filled and turned on a chip warmer, which was on a table just outside of the kitchen. Chips were too close to the heating element either from overloading or not properly cleaning the unit. A sprinkler head directly over the unit activated after the chips ignited. The fire was quickly extinguished with minimal smoke damage to the area. The health department and maintenance were contacted while staff began removing water from the tile floors. The sprinkler system was put back in service and the restaurant was open for dinner the same day. The loss was estimated at \$500 and the value of the protected property was \$2,500,000.



For those of you who routinely get asked why a sprinkler head is necessary in a freezer, we had a save in a freezer in 2009 at one of our high schools. Heat tape on a condensate pipe failed and ignited foam insulation around the pipe (see picture left). The fire spread to cardboard boxes of food and grew hot enough to set off the sprinkler in the freezer extinguishing the fire. This occurred early in the morning before school and there was no problem holding classes that day.

Each case demonstrates the value in protection. Sprinklers work in commercial buildings. Residential sprinklers can provide the same value in homes as well.

DeVilbiss Recalls Air Compressors Due to Fire Hazard

Firm's Recall Hotline: (866) 220-5627
Sears Recall Hotline: (888) 279-8013
CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, announced, on February 3, 2011, a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

Name of Product: Air compressors

Units: About 460,000

Manufacturer: DeVilbiss Air Power Company of Jackson, TN

Hazard: The air compressor motor can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: DeVilbiss received nine reports of motors overheating, including three reports of fire damage to surrounding property. No injuries have been reported.

Description: The recalled compressors were sold under the Craftsman, Delta Shopmaster, DeVilbiss, Husky and Porter-Cable brand names. The model number and manufacture date on each unit is located on the unit name plate on the tank. The model numbers, brands, tank size, orientation and color are shown below:

Brand | Model Number | Tank | Tank Color | Manufacture Date Range

Craftsman	919-16644	15 gal. vertical	Red	5/2004 - 3/2005
Craftsman	919-16724	15 gal. horizontal	Red	9/2000 - 3/2003
Craftsman	919-16724-1	15 gal. horizontal	Red	9/2002 - 12/2003
Craftsman	919-16724-2	15 gal. horizontal	Red	7/2003 - 5/2005
Craftsman	919-16724-3	15 gal. horizontal	Red	5/2004 - 1/2005
Craftsman	919-16725	15 gal. horizontal	Red	12/2002 - 12/2003
Craftsman	919-16725-1	15 gal. horizontal	Red	7/2003 - 8/2004
Porter-Cable	C2000-WK	6 gal. pancake	Red	1/2004 - 5/2004
Porter-Cable	C3001	4 gal. stacked	Red	1/2004 - 7/2004
Delta Shopmaster	CP503	12 gal. horizontal	Gray	6/2002 - 3/2003
Delta Shopmaster	CP503-1	12 gal. horizontal	Gray	5/2003 - 3/2004
DeVilbiss Impact Series	HFAC 3030	3 gal. horizontal	Blue	1/2003 - 7/2004
Husky	Y6010-WK	25 gal. vertical	Red	2/2003 - 9/2003
Husky	Y6010-WK-1	25 gal. vertical	Red	7/2003 - 9/2003
Husky	Y6020-WK	25 gal. vertical	Red	5/2003 - 3/2004

Sold at: DeVilbiss, Porter-Cable, Husky, and Delta Shopmaster brand compressors were sold at home centers nationwide from January 2003 through December 2004 for between \$199 and \$299. Craftsman-brand compressors were sold at Sears stores nationwide from September 2000 through December 2005 for between \$199 and \$229.

Manufactured in: United States

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using and unplug the recalled compressors and call DeVilbiss or Sears for a free inspection and repair.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, consumers with DeVilbiss, Porter-Cable, Husky and Delta compressors should contact DeVilbiss toll-free at (866) 220-5627 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's website at www.porter-cable.com or www.devap.com. Consumers with Craftsman-brand compressors should call Sears toll-free at (888) 279-8013, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. CT and Saturday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CT, or visit their website at www.sears.com.

To see this recall on CPSC's website, including pictures of the recalled products, please go to: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml11/11117.html>



Location of model number and manufacture date on Husky and Craftsman brand air compressors

Thanks to all of you for the continued articles, information, photos and comments – your input is important. Any questions regarding the Bureau of Fire Services newsletter may be directed to Terry Fobbs at (517) 373-8331 or fobbst@michigan.gov.

For additional information about the Bureau of Fire Services and to subscribe or unsubscribe to the “Michigan Fire Service Connection” go to:

http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-28077_42271---,00.html



<http://www.michigan.gov/dleg>



DELEG is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.